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Selected Speeches and News Releases

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Statement—

U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Public Affairs

by Edward Madigan, Secretary of Agriculture on Preliminary Plans to Restructure USDA Field Offices Jan. 7, 1993

Last May, we began the most sweeping review ever conducted of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's field office network. Today we are closer to completing the package, and I want to thank the Office of Management and Budget for its expertise.

There are 14,309 field offices of the Department of Agriculture. Of that number 7,405 are agencies that deal with the delivery of farm services at the county level. The remaining number of offices are those that deal with the Food and Nutrition Service, Food Inspection, Forest Service, Agricultural Marketing Services and other missions — all of which are the subject of other studies. But the effort toward restructuring USDA began last May with an evaluation of the 7,405 county-based offices charged with delivering farm service benefits. We are dealing today with the preliminary results of that study.

Those 7,405 offices are in 3,700 locations around the country, because many offices are located at the same address.

What we are submitting to the Congress and agricultural groups today is the completed work of a joint USDA/OMB review team. They studied these county-based offices on the basis of six criteria:

- program delivery costs;
- number of producers served;
- complexity of programs administered;
- geographic service area;
- whether local offices were scattered or located under one roof, and
- intensity of workload at local offices.

Our projections are that we will be reducing the total number of USDA locations by roughly 28 percent and the total number of USDA offices in these initially studied categories by 17 percent. That will mean a reduction of about 1,000 locations and more than 1,000 offices. Next week I will make a final decision on the number of offices recommended for closing and make it public.

The current USDA field office structure is comparable to that which existed when 20 percent of the U.S. population lived on farms and was

without modern communication. Today less than 1 percent of the U.S. population lives on farms and has all of the modern transportation and telecommunication services available to them. Many improvements in the delivery of services to farmers could be made if the field office structure were streamlined so that we could afford to place in each of the offices the technological advances that are available today.

This is not about reducing service to farmers. It is about being able to afford to improve our services to farmers in a manner that respects the role of the American taxpayer.

Before leaving office, I will again meet with you to discuss our recommendations for the reorganization of USDA in Washington.

I'll be happy to take your questions.

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USDA EXTENDS COMMENT PERIOD ON PROPOSED REQUIREMENTS FOR SHELL EGGS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has extended the comment period on its proposed temperature and labeling requirements for shell eggs to March 29.

Daniel D. Haley, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said, "The 60-day comment period, which was to end Dec. 28, was extended at the request of an industry organization to allow additional time to evaluate the proposal."

The new regulations would require that shell eggs be stored at 45 degrees F (7.2 degrees C) or below after being packed into containers going to consumers and that they be transported in refrigerated trucks at 45 degrees F or below.

The proposed regulations also contain egg carton labeling requirements that would remind consumers to keep eggs refrigerated until they are prepared for consumption.

Notice of the extension will appear in the Jan. 8 Federal Register. Written comments may be sent in duplicate, postmarked by March 29, 1993, to Janice L. Lockard, Chief, Standardization Branch, Poultry Division, AMS, USDA, Rm. 3944-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456.

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USDA PROPOSING TO EXPAND GEOGRAPHICAL BOUNDARIES OF TOBACCO AUCTION MARKETS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7—The U.S. Department of Agriculture is proposing to expand the geographical boundaries of tobacco auction markets.

Daniel D. Haley, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said the geographical area of designated tobacco auction markets would expand from 3 miles to 5 miles from the boundaries of the city or town where the markets are located.

"This change would allow more flexibility in building new warehouses," Haley said.

In many markets, zoning laws and the cost of land make it impossible to build new warehouses within the current 3-mile limit, Haley said. With the spread of residential development and other businesses seeking lower cost advantages, it has become necessary for new warehouses to locate further outside the city limits, he said.

The proposed change would also allow existing warehouses, which received price support and inspection services during the 1992 marketing season, to continue to operate at the same location.

Notice of the proposed revision will be published in the Jan. 8 Federal Register. Comments, which should be received no later than Feb. 8, may be sent to the Director, Tobacco Division, AMS, USDA, P.O. Box 96456, Rm. 502 Annex, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456. Copies of the proposed rule and additional information are available from the division director at the above address, telephone (202) 205-0567.

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USDA LOWERS FEES FOR SOME QUARANTINE AND INSPECTION SERVICES

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7—The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced it will lower several of the user fees it charges for agricultural quarantine and inspection services. This change affects certain international airline passengers, commercial aircraft, and commercial vessels.

The new, lower fees will be \$1.45 for international airline passengers, \$61.00 for commercial aircraft and \$369.50 for commercial vessels. The fees are charged for inspections performed to prevent the spread of agricultural pests and diseases in the United States

“We have looked at incoming revenue since the inception of the fees and have determined that our operating costs are somewhat lower than the total amount of money being collected,” said B. Glen Lee, deputy administrator for plant protection and quarantine with USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. “We are pleased to be able to pass along the savings.”

Because the action is of immediate economic advantage and is consistent with USDA’s responsibility to ensure the rates are consistent with expenditures, USDA is not providing for prior public comment on the fee reductions. Instead, the changes appeared in the Dec. 31, 1992, Federal Register as an interim rule that became effective Jan. 1.

Comments on the rule will be accepted if received on or before Feb. 1. An original and three copies of written comments referring to Docket 92-148-1 should be sent to Chief, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, USDA, Room 804 Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782. Comments may be inspected as soon as received at USDA, Room 1141 South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C., between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

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OFFICIAL GRAIN INSPECTION AND WEIGHING SERVICES FEES INCREASED

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7—The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Federal Grain Inspection Service is increasing its fees by 3.7 percent for official inspection and weighing services performed in the United States under the U.S. Grain Standards Act.

According to FGIS administrator John C. Foltz, the agency, which is predominantly funded by user fees, operated at a loss in fiscal 1992. The increase is needed to comply with laws that require FGIS to cover agency operating costs, he said.

The fee increase does not include fees for administration and supervision of official agencies or for inspection and weighing services provided in Canada.

Because the fee increase is being announced as an interim rule in the Jan. 8 Federal Register, the agency can implement the increase and still accept public comment. The fee increase will become effective Feb. 1.

Comments should be submitted on or before March 3, 1993, to George Wollam, USDA, FGIS, Room 0624-S, P.O. Box 96454, Washington, D.C. 20090-6454; facsimile machine (202) 720-4628.

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USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET PRICE AND USER MARKETING CERTIFICATE PAYMENT RATE FOR UPLAND COTTON

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7—John Stevenson, acting executive vice president of USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation, today announced the prevailing world market price, adjusted to U.S. quality and location (adjusted world price), for Strict Low Middling (SLM) 1-1/16 inch (micronaire 3.5-3.6 and 4.3-4.9, strength 24-25 grams per tex) upland cotton (base quality) and the coarse count adjustment (CCA) in effect from 5:00 p.m. today through 3:59 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 14. The user marketing certificate payment rate announced today is in effect from 12:01 a.m. Friday, Jan. 8, through midnight Thursday, Jan. 14.

The Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended, provides that the AWP may be further adjusted if: (a) the AWP is less than 115 percent of the current crop year loan rate for base quality upland cotton, and (b) the Friday through Thursday average price quotation for the lowest-priced U.S. growth as quoted for Middling (M) 1-3/32 inch cotton, C.I.F. northern Europe (USNE price) exceeds the Northern Europe (NE) price. The maximum allowable adjustment is the difference between the USNE price and the NE price.

A further adjustment to this week's calculated AWP may be made in accordance with this provision. The calculated AWP is 79 percent of the 1992 upland cotton base quality loan rate, and the USNE price exceeds the NE price by 5.32 cents per pound. Following are the relevant calculations:

I.	Calculated AWP	41.50 cents per pound
	1992 Base Loan Rate	52.35 cents per pound
	AWP as a Percent of Loan Rate	79
II.	USNE Price	60.50 cents per pound
	NE Price	<u>-55.18</u> cents per pound
	Maximum Adjustment Allowed	5.32 cents per pound

Based on a consideration of the U.S. share of world exports, the current level of cotton export sales and cotton export shipments, and other relevant data, no further adjustment to this week's calculated AWP will be made.

This week's AWP and coarse count adjustment are determined as follows:

Adjusted World Price

NE Price	55.18
Adjustments:	
Average U.S. spot market location	11.82
SLM 1-1/16 inch cotton	1.55
Average U.S. location	0.31
Sum of Adjustments	<u>-13.68</u>
Calculated AWP	41.50
Further AWP Adjustment	<u>- 0</u>
ADJUSTED WORLD PRICE	41.50 cents/lb.

Coarse Count Adjustment

NE Price	55.18
NE Coarse Count Price	<u>-50.77</u>
.....	4.41
Adjustment to SLM 1-1/32 inch cotton	<u>-3.95</u>
COARSE COUNT ADJUSTMENT	0.18 cents/lb.

Because the AWP is below the 1991 and 1992 base quality loan rates of 50.77 and 52.35 cents per pound, respectively, the loan repayment rate during this period is equal to the AWP, adjusted for the specific quality and location plus applicable interest and storage charges. The AWP will continue to be used to determine the value of upland cotton that is obtained in exchange for commodity certificates.

Because the AWP is below the 1992-crop loan rate, cash loan deficiency payments will be paid to eligible producers who agree to forgo obtaining a price support loan with respect to the 1992 crop. The payment rate is equal to the difference between the loan rate and the AWP. Producers are allowed to obtain a loan deficiency payment on a bale-by-bale basis.

The USNE price has exceeded the NE price by more than 1.25 cents per pound for four consecutive weeks and the AWP has not exceeded 130 percent of the 1992 crop year base quality loan rate in any week of the 4-week period. As a result, the user marketing certificate payment rate is 4.07 cents per pound. This rate is applicable for bales opened by domestic users and for cotton contracts entered into by exporters for delivery prior to September 30, 1993. Relevant data used in determining the user marketing certificate payment rate are summarized below:

Week	For the Friday through Thursday Period	USNE Current Price	NE Current Price	USNE Minus NE	Certificate Payment Rate 1/
1	Dec. 17, 1992	60.00	54.38	5.62	4.37
2	Dec. 24, 1992	59.10	54.41	4.69	3.44
3	Dec. 31, 1992	60.50	54.85	5.65	4.40
4	Jan. 7, 1993	60.50	55.18	5.32	4.07

1/ USNE price minus NE price minus 1.25 cents.

Next week's AWP, CCA and user marketing certificate payment rate will be announced on Thursday, Jan 14.

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PRODUCERS MAY ENTER 1992-CROP FEED GRAINS INTO FARMER-OWNED RESERVE

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7—Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan announced today that producers may enter 1992-crop corn, grain sorghum and barley in the Farmer-Owned Reserve.

Madigan said producers will earn quarterly storage payments for the grains at an annual rate of 26.5 cents per bushel. The total quantity of corn, grain sorghum and barley in the FOR may not exceed 600 million bushels.

"I am making this announcement now so producers can plan their marketing and price support activities," Madigan said.

Madigan also emphasized producers may not obtain an FOR loan until the expiration of a nine-month regular, nonrecourse price support loan. FOR loan collateral must meet all quality requirements for feed grains that are pledged as collateral for a nonrecourse price support loan.

The secretary must allow entry into the FOR when the average market price for corn for the 90-days preceding the announcement is less than 120 percent of the corn price support loan rate and the 1992 estimated corn ending stocks-to-use ratio is more than 22.5 percent. If one condition is met the secretary may allow entry. If neither condition is met, 1992-crop feed grains will not be allowed into the FOR. By law, a decision on entry of 1992-crop feed grains into the FOR must be announced by March 15.

The following factors were used in this decision:

- 120 percent of the corn price support rate, \$2.06 per bushel;
- 90-day corn average market price, \$1.99 per bushel;
- estimated 1992/93 corn ending stocks, 2,097 million bushels;
- estimated 1992/93 corn total use, 8,335 million bushels; and
- estimated 1992/93 corn ending stocks-to-use ratio, 25.2 percent.

The source for the last three factors is the Dec. 10, 1992 World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates.

The law allows producers to repay FOR loans anytime before maturity without penalty. The FOR loans will mature 27 months from the date the 9-month loans mature and the FOR loan rate will be at the same rate as the 9-month loan rate.

To ensure that the quantity of feed grains pledged as collateral for FOR loans does not exceed the 600 million bushels maximum and to ensure regional equity, feed grain producers are required to notify their local county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service office by April 30 of their intentions to place 1992-crop feed grains in the reserve. If producers designate more than 600 million bushels of feed grains for the reserve, the Commodity Credit Corporation will determine a prorated amount that each producer may enter in the FOR.

Although a producer's stated intention to place feed grains in the FOR does not obligate the producer to do so. A producer first must obtain a regular 9-month CCC price support loan contract before stating such an intention. In the case of barley, loans must be obtained by March 31, which is the normal deadline for obtaining such loans.

Secretary Madigan said that interest on FOR loans will accrue when market prices equal or exceed 105 percent of the current target price. Storage payments will be earned until market prices equal or exceed 95 percent of the current target price. These determinations will be made individually for each category of feed grain.

Producers should contact their local ASCS office for additional information.

USDA APPOINTS MEMBERS TO A NATIONAL COUNCIL ON SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

LINCOLN, Ill., Jan. 8—Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan today appointed 14 private sector members to the new National Sustainable Agriculture Advisory Council (NSAAC).

The council will advise the Secretary on research, education, policy and financial issues related to the topic of sustainable agriculture.

“Each of these appointees provides a unique perspective on human nutrition and the environment,” Madigan said. “This council will oversee an integrated system of plant and animal production practices to meet long-term human food and fiber needs, and enhance the environmental quality and natural resource base upon which the agriculture economy depends.”

The council is composed of members representing five different private sector categories: farmers and ranchers, the farm family, human nutrition, nonprofit organizations and agribusiness.

Members are:

Farmers and ranchers: Fred Kirschenmann, Windsor, N.D.; Ben Burkett, Petal, Miss.; Lee Leachman II, Billings, Mont.; and Jackie Judice, New Iberia, La.

Farm Family: Loraine Merrill, Stratham, N.H.

Human Nutrition: Dr. Sandy Schlicker, Washington, D.C.

Non-profit private organizations: Mike Brusko, Emmaus, Pa.; Jim Horne, Poteau, Okla.; Tim Rose, Lyons, Kan.; and Stanley Howell, Omaha, Ill.

Agribusiness: Ray Eid, Wilmington, Del.; Kate Burroughs, Sebastopol, Calif.; Madeline Mellinger, Jupiter, Fla.; and Robert Anderson, Penns Creek, Pa.

The first meeting of NSAAC is scheduled for early March in Washington, D.C.

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USDA USES ITS SURPLUS PROPERTY TO HOUSE HOMELESS FAMILIES IN RURAL AMERICA

WASHINGTON—Clem Singer, a county supervisor for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farmers Home Administration, based in Roseburg, Ore., had a number of vacant single-family homes in the agency's surplus housing inventory within Douglas County, Ore. Stuart Leibowitz, director of a community non-profit organization in Douglas County, needed a vacant residence to house a local family that recently had become homeless.

So they made a deal.

Singer took Leibowitz on a tour of the vacant properties in the FmHA inventory, pointing out those which might be used for housing needy families. Leibowitz then selected one of the homes and leased it from FmHA for 10 years at a total cost of \$1.

Both men were pleased, and the local family moved into the residence shortly thereafter.

That action represented a mutual effort by USDA and non-profit organizations to help rural families in need. It's an effort that transforms an empty house into a temporary home for rural families which are homeless—and it's based on a program that FmHA began over three years ago.

According to Reed Petersen, chief of the Property Management Branch in FmHA's Housing Division, the agency sometimes acquires a house in a rural area—which was financed with an FmHA loan—because the borrower is no longer meeting his/her financial obligations.

However, even though the agency takes possession of properties, it cannot use all of them because they may have been judged to be unsuitable for inclusion within other eligible FmHA housing loan programs. Reasons for such a decision may include such factors as high heating costs due to poor insulation, or inefficient and outdated floor plans.

Therefore, the property sits, unused, taking up space on an inventory list, while the agency must expend resources on the overall upkeep of the residence itself as well as the land on which it sits, until it can be sold.

"Then, in 1989," Petersen said, "we came up with a plan to release those inventory properties to grassroots community networks, where the properties could do some good."

Specifically, FmHA authorized the lease of those rural non-program inventory properties to public bodies and non-profit community organizations. The lease rate for up to a 10-year lease was set at \$1 total. As another option, the property could be sold to an eligible non-profit group at a 10 percent discount on the sale price of the property.

He noted that 21 properties in seven states are presently being used for this purpose.

But doesn't the U.S. Government take it on the proverbial chin financially by all but giving these residences away as "transitional" housing, even though the lease is temporary?

"Not hardly," Petersen said. "Even at the leased rate of \$1, the use of FmHA homes as transitional housing for the homeless does save tax dollars."

He explained that while unoccupied homes remain in FmHA's inventory, they cost money to maintain. In fact, he said, the average cost to the agency of holding onto a single unoccupied house is \$322 a month. This includes such costs as lawn and yard maintenance and heating bills to keep pipes from freezing in the winter.

"But once we lease an inventoried property to a non-profit group," Petersen said, "then the upkeep becomes that group's responsibility."

He said that only homes in FmHA's inventory that do not meet requirements for the agency's housing loan program may be leased in this fashion. "This agency's first priority," Petersen noted, "is still to provide housing for rural residents who qualify for FmHA mortgages."

But some of the homes that return to FmHA through foreclosure no longer meet the detailed requirements of the agency's direct loan program. For instance, a room may have been added, thereby making it larger than the allowable size.

"If the home doesn't meet FmHA's standards," Petersen said, "it is considered 'non-program inventory property' and is made available for sale." And nowadays that includes being leased or sold—as part of this particular program to help homeless families in rural America.

He added that non-profit groups like being able to use an FmHA surplus single-family home in this fashion for still another reason. "They tell us that it's much harder to find temporary housing for homeless families than for homeless individuals," he said.

"So, in order to keep the members of a family together, a single-family home is obviously much more ideal than one or two rooms scattered through a homeless shelter—which is more than likely being occupied by a number of other individuals and/or members of other families."

In addition, according to Petersen, public bodies and non-profit organizations often have the resources and staff to easily maintain and supervise these single-family homes, and thereby can shelter entire families in them.

Agencies can provide counseling and visitation, while giving the families privacy.

“Once we lease the residence,” he said, “we don’t become involved in the operation of this newly-created ‘shelter-home.’” “But we do require that any monetary charges to the temporary residents are minimal, per the terms of our lease with the group.”

How is the program working in the seven states—Colorado, Idaho, Maine, Minnesota, Missouri, Oklahoma, and, as noted earlier, Oregon—which currently lease surplus FmHA single-family rural residences to house homeless families?

In Rockland, Maine, FmHA County Supervisor Paul Andrews met with local leaders and non-profit groups and attended a conference held by the Maine Council on Community Mental Health Services. “Because of those contacts,” he said, “we leased two FmHA homes to agencies providing transitional housing.”

Andrews added that the Mid-Coast Human Resources Council of Waldoboro, Maine acquired one of the homes in May 1992—and since then has housed three families in it, each for a short period of time.

Although there was only one property available to lease or sell in Canyon County, Idaho, Assistant County Supervisor Carole Percifield alerted the non-profit organizations in her area about its availability. In March 1992 a non-profit group called Turning Point of Caldwell, Idaho leased the home for three years. The residence now provides emergency shelter for homeless families.

“Families here in Caldwell are doubling up, sometimes for six months after losing their income,” said Philip Bush, director of Turning Point. “They’ll stay with families and friends until that just wears out, while others just live in their cars.”

Bush said that community volunteers made cosmetic repairs on the FmHA- leased house, groomed its lawn, and regularly have been holding fund raisers for his organization. He added that he plans to lease other FmHA houses as they become available.

“I could put six more homes to use,” he said.

Ivan Graves, FmHA county supervisor based in Cherokee, Okla., leased an FmHA residence to a group called Help in Crisis in April 1991. That group shelters battered women and children in four Oklahoma counties. Dena

Franke, executive director of the organization, said that the group has a success story because of its strong relationship with Government agencies.

Phyllis Ose, FmHA county office assistant in Otter Tail County, Minn., said that in late 1991 she “called every non-profit group I could find” to publicize that county’s surplus houses available for lease. Because of her efforts, County Supervisor Darrell Strand sold—not leased—two former FmHA non-program properties to an agency that provides shelter for abused family members.

The Missouri Valley Human Resource Community Action Agency uses private donations to furnish and maintain the three homes it leased from Kelly Gregory, FmHA county supervisor based in Sedalia, Mo. Shirley Neff, director of the group, said the homes are used as transition housing for families whose breadwinners have lost their jobs.

“There really is a need here,” Neff said, “but I don’t think many realize it because they don’t see people lying in the street or on park benches.”

“We’re working with a lot of ‘hidden homeless’ who are living in overcrowded conditions and sub-standard housing.”

Gary Frisch, FmHA’s Missouri State Housing Chief and acting State Director based in Columbia, Mo., described the program as a win-win situation. “In addition to the gratification that comes from assisting needy families,” he said, “this is a low-cost method to serve the homeless in rural America.”

“These homes are already available, and it doesn’t take a big, new program to provide this benefit or administer it.”

NOTE TO EDITORS: For details, contact Reed Petersen, chief, Property Management Branch, Farmers Home Administration, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250-0700; telephone number (202) 720-1452.

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STATEMENT REQUIRED FOR WATER ADDED TO EXPORT GRAIN

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8—The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Federal Grain Inspection Service will require a statement on official inspection and weight certificates whenever water is applied to export grain at export locations.

According to FGIS administrator John C. Foltz, this action responds to foreign customers' and domestic grain merchants' concerns about potential quality degradation due to added water, and excessive addition of water to grain to increase its weight. The statement will ensure that buyers know when water is applied to grain, and the purpose and location of the water application, Foltz said.

The certification requirement becomes effective Feb. 8.

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FOREST SERVICE ESTABLISHES WILDERNESS RESEARCH INSTITUTE AND TRAINING CENTER

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11—F. Dale Robertson, Chief of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service, today announced the agency will establish the Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute and the Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center, both in Montana.

Today is the 106th anniversary of Leopold's birth, Robertson said. As early Forest Service employees, Leopold and Carhart were both instrumental in preserving wilderness areas in the National Forest System.

"The Forest Service is proud of our long association with preservation and management of wilderness," Robertson said. "Forest Service visionaries like Aldo Leopold and Arthur Carhart pioneered the concept of preserving wilderness areas and much of the philosophy of wilderness management originated in the Forest Service. We continually seek to improve our care of wilderness and special management areas, using the best available research."

The National Wilderness Preservation System today includes 95 million acres in 44 states, an area about three times the size of the state of New York. Currently 34 million acres, almost one-fifth of all national forest system lands, are designated wilderness.

The need for scientific information to guide wilderness management is critical, Robertson said. The Leopold Wilderness Research Institute will conduct and expand research into the use and management of wilderness, integrate and coordinate research efforts among government agencies, universities and other research organizations, develop and implement innovative technology transfer methods, and provide technical assistance in national and international wilderness-related issues.

The institute will be formally dedicated this summer at a ceremony in Missoula, Mont. The Carhart Wilderness Training Center, to be dedicated at the same time, will provide a national focus to wilderness training and education. It is being formed around an existing regional wilderness training center on the Lolo National Forest in Huson, Mont. The new center will identify high priority training and education needs, develop and distribute training materials, and act as a clearinghouse for training and education information. Connie Myers, a resource management specialist with the Forest Service in Montana, has been selected to direct the new center.

The development of the research institute and training center involved extensive consultation and coordination with the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Indian Affairs, as well as various universities and non-governmental organizations.

NOTE TO EDITORS: Black-and-white glossy prints of the photograph are available from Photography Division, Room 4404-S, OPA, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250-1300; telephone (202) 720-6633. Request by photo number.

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USDA PROPOSES REVISING GRADING STANDARDS FOR FROZEN CAULIFLOWER

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11—The U.S. Department of Agriculture is proposing to revise its grading standards for frozen cauliflower to bring them in line with with current industry advances. The standards were written in 1951.

Daniel D. Haley, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said the changes also would:

- Provide for the "individual attributes" procedure for product grading with sample sizes, acceptable quality levels, "tolerances and acceptance numbers," i.e., number of allowable defects, being published in the standards;
- Replace dual grade nomenclature with single letter grade designation; and
- Provide a uniform format consistent with other recently revised U.S. grade standards by adopting definitions of terms and replacing textual descriptions with easy-to-read tables.

USDA began its review of frozen cauliflower in response to requests from the American Frozen Food Institute and National Food Processors Association.

The proposed changes are in today's Federal Register. Comments, in duplicate, postmarked no later than March 12, should be sent to the Office of the Branch Chief, Processed Products Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Division, AMS, USDA, P.O. Box 96456, Room 0709-S, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456.

For additional information, contact Randle A. Macon at the same address; telephone (202) 720-6247.

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USDA REVISES FORMULA USED TO PREDICT SOIL EROSION

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has revised the equation it uses to predict soil loss and expects to start using the new version in the development of farm conservation plans by mid-summer.

The universal soil loss equation (USLE), the primary tool used in conservation planning worldwide, considers such factors as average annual soil erosion, rainfall and runoff, soil erodibility, slope and steepness of the land, plant cover and management, and landowner practices to predict soil erosion from rainfall and runoff.

The revised equation (RUSLE) was developed by scientists working with USDA's Agricultural Research Service. It uses new and more specific data than the old version on rainfall, seasonal changes such as freezing and thawing, and such factors as crop growth, crop residue cover and decomposition, surface roughness, and soil moisture.

"The revisions make the universal soil loss equation more accurate and applicable to more diverse situations, and will help conservation agencies and farmers control soil erosion," said ARS Administrator R. Dean Plowman.

"This is an exciting advancement in the technology to predict erosion," said William Richards, chief of USDA's Soil Conservation Service, which has used the original equation for nearly three decades for on-farm planning of soil conservation practices. "We expect to have the revised soil loss equation ready for use in our field office technical guides by August.

“It’s a real step forward for an industry that’s always looking for new and better ways to be both environmentally and economically sound,” Richards said.

ARS will train people to use the revised equation. In addition to SCS, they are working with the Soil and Water Conservation Society to train and certify private consultants and will be training people from other countries.

SCS will develop information specifically for each local field office and correlate the information across state and regional boundaries before it begins using the updated version in field offices.

“At this point, we can’t generalize as to whether RUSLE will show soilloss estimates higher or lower than USLE,” said Richards.

The difficulty in generalizing the impact of RUSLE is due to the wide climatic differences across the United States and changes in other factors in the formula. Also, both RUSLE and USLE need to be used with specific site data in order to obtain soil erosion estimates.

“As soon as our state offices have developed the data bases necessary to properly apply RUSLE, we will ask them to make a few side-by-side comparisons between RUSLE and USLE to provide better information on the impacts of the new technology,” said Richards. “We think the revision will generally provide more credit for residue on the surface and give additional credit for residue incorporated near the surface.”

The latest revision is the result of a cooperative effort begun four years ago between scientists and users. Kenneth G. Renard, ARS, Tucson, Arizona, has been the lead scientist in the revision.

The original equation, developed by USDA and university scientists, was first published in 1958 and revised in 1978. It was the result of a pioneering use of mathematics to solve agricultural problems, Plowman said.

NOTE TO EDITORS: For more information on the development of the equation, contact Kenneth G. Renard, Southwest Watershed Research, ARS, USDA, Tucson, Ariz.; telephone (602) 670-6481.

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FIRST CALVES OF PREDETERMINED SEX BORN

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11—The world’s first calves of predetermined sex produced from sorted sperm and in vitro fertilization of cows’ eggs have been born in Cambridge, England.

The calves—three male and three female Holstein-Friesians—were produced from sperm sorted specifically to produce only either the males or females. The calves are indistinguishable from other calves, according to a report in the Jan. 9 issue of *The Veterinary Record*, a British scientific journal.

The sperm sorting technology was developed by a U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist. USDA has patented the technology and issued a nonexclusive license to Animal Biotechnology Cambridge Ltd. of Cambridge, England.

The joint project that produced the British calves is the result of a cooperative research and development agreement between USDA's Agricultural Research Service and Animal Biotechnology Cambridge Ltd.

Animal physiologist Lawrence A. Johnson was the lead scientist for ARS in the cooperative agreement. Johnson and colleagues at ARS developed the sperm sorting technology used to produce the British calves. Christopher Polge and David G. Cran were the principal scientists on the British project for Animal Biotechnology Cambridge Ltd.'s agricultural business, Mastercalf Ltd. Nigel A. Miller of the AFRC Institute for Animal Research at Cambridge also cooperated in the project.

The sperm that produced the calves were sorted according to chromosome content. Sperm cells carrying a Y chromosome produce males, while sperm that contain only the X chromosome produce females. The sorted sperm were then used to fertilize cow eggs in vitro, and the developing embryos were transferred into recipient cows using standard techniques.

In developing the sperm-sorting technology at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Md., Johnson and colleagues have obtained live births of predetermined sex in swine, sheep and rabbits. Johnson said 75 to 90 percent of the offspring were of the predicted sex. Sperm carrying the X chromosome have 4 percent more DNA content. Johnson said sperm cells are first treated with fluorescent dye, then passed into a cell sorter where they flow single-file past a laser beam. The X sperm give off more fluorescent light because of their greater DNA content. Based on the light they emit, the X and Y sperm are collected in separate tubes. Johnson said his technique will sort about 2 to 3 million bull sperm a day. About 15 to 20 million sperm are needed for routine artificial insemination of a cow. "Since sperm sorting is a fairly slow process, the obvious way to use it with cattle is in conjunction with in vitro fertilization," he said.

USDA entered the cooperative research and development agreement on the sperm-sorting process with Animal Biotechnology Cambridge Ltd. in

1990. Animal Biotechnology Cambridge Ltd. subsequently established Mastercalf Ltd.

Under the terms of the license agreement with USDA, Animal Biotechnology Cambridge Ltd. obtained a non-exclusive license to develop the process commercially for use with animals.

“Animal Biotechnology Cambridge Ltd. is a world leader in in vitro fertilization and embryo production technology,” Johnson said. “The purpose of the cooperative agreement was to help transfer this technology from the laboratory to the marketplace.”

Johnson said the sperm-sorting technology could be used in the United States in conjunction with in vitro fertilization in either beef or dairy cattle. Generally, beef producers prefer more males because steers grow faster than females, while dairy producers seek more females to improve and replace their existing herds.

A scientific paper on the English calves will be presented Jan. 13 at the International Embryo Transfer Society meeting in Baton Rouge, La., and at the British Cattle Breeders Club in Cambridge.

NOTE TO EDITORS: For details, contact Lawrence A. Johnson, Germplasm and Gamete Physiology Laboratory, USDA, ARS, Beltsville, Md. 20705. Telephone

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PAKISTAN ELIGIBLE FOR MORE WHEAT UNDER EXPORT ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11—Acting Under Secretary of Agriculture R. Randall Green today announced an opportunity for sales of an additional 550,000 metric tons of U.S. wheat to Pakistan under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Export Enhancement Program.

Sales of wheat will be made to buyers in Pakistan through normal commercial channels at competitive world prices. The export sales will be facilitated through payment of bonuses by USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation. The subsidy will enable U.S. exporters to compete at commercial prices in the Pakistani market.

This allocation will be valid until June 30, as provided for in the invitation for offers. Details of the program, including an invitation for offers from exporters, will be issued in the near future.

For more information call Randy Baxter, (202) 720-5540, or Larry McElvain, (202) 720-6211.

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USDA SEEKS U.S. COMPANIES FOR TRADE MISSION TO BELIZE

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11—The U.S. Department of Agriculture is seeking representatives of U.S. agribusiness firms to participate in an agribusiness opportunity mission to Belize April 25-30.

According to USDA's Office of International Cooperation and Development Acting Administrator John A. Miranda, the business climate in Belize is currently favorable due to new legislation enacted by Belize which supports exports and incentives to investors.

Belizean agricultural companies, producers and exporters want to develop business linkages and joint ventures with U.S. counterparts interested in fresh and processed citrus products, jams, jellies and sauces, and wooden furniture, he said.

Mission participants will learn first-hand about Belize's production and export capabilities, gain knowledge of specific business opportunities (including opportunities to sell U.S. products and services), meet potential partners and visit production facilities.

U.S. firms interested in participating should submit a short letter of intent stating their specific area of interest along with a company profile. Submissions should be sent to Stephen Hawkins, USDA, OICD Room 3250-S, Washington, D.C. 20250-4300.

The mission is sponsored by USDA and the Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry. USDA does not charge a registration fee or administrative costs. Participants are responsible for their travel, lodging and meals. Letters of intent will be accepted until March 1.

For further information, contact Stephen Hawkins FAX (202) 690-2986, or (202) 690-3982.

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USDA PROPOSES CHANGING RICE STANDARDS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Federal Grain Inspection Service today proposed to establish a special grade for aromatic (scented) rice, according to David R. Galliard, acting administrator of FGIS.

FGIS is also proposing to eliminate the requirement that rough rice or brown rice for processing must contain more than 25 percent of whole kernels in order to be classed as Long grain, Medium grain, Short grain, or Mixed rough rice or brown rice for processing.

Galliard said the proposed changes to the U.S. Standards for Rice respond to industry and consumer needs.

Comments must be submitted on or before April 12, 1993, to George Wollam, USDA, FGIS, Room 0619-S, P.O. Box 96454, Washington, D.C. 20090-6454, facsimile (202) 720-4628.

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MADIGAN NAMES WATERMELON BOARD MEMBERS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12—Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan has appointed five members to the National Watermelon Promotion Board for 3-year terms beginning January.

The industry nominates producers and handlers, such as wholesale buyers and shippers. The board nominates the public member. The secretary of agriculture makes the appointments from the nominees submitted by the industry and the board.

Reappointed are: District 5 — producer Anita M. Field, Indiana; handler Frank E. Day, Oklahoma; and handler Robert H. Dietz, Illinois.

Newly appointed are: District 5 — producer Keith L. Hall, Oklahoma; District 6 — producer Roel Gonzales, Texas.

The National Watermelon Promotion Board was established by the Watermelon Research and Promotion Plan, under the 1985 Watermelon Research and Promotion Act. The board is composed of two handler and two

producer representatives for each of seven districts in the contiguous United States and one public member.

The board administers a national program of research and promotion for watermelons. Watermelon producers and handlers finance the board's programs through assessments on domestic watermelons. One-third of the board members' terms expire each year, thus providing continuity in the program. USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service monitors the board's operations.

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WASP FROM MEXICO COULD BE FIRST INSECT TO CONTROL BOLL WEEVIL

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12—Tiny black wasps that seek and destroy young boll weevils—one of cotton's worst pests—may help farmers grow the fiber with less insecticide, said U.S. Department of Agriculture scientists.

"This wasp, *Catolaccus grandis*, may be the first insect enemy to be proven effective against boll weevils since the pests first appeared in the United States in 1892," said Edgar G. King of USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

The wasp wiped out 96 percent of young boll weevils on one- and two-acre test plots without any help from insecticide, said King, director of the agency's Subtropical Agricultural Research Laboratory, Weslaco, Texas. "We released thousands of wasps every week during the cotton season," he said.

By August, plots protected by the wasps had between three and 14 times more cotton bolls than nearby plots without wasps, said entomologist K. Rod Summy at the Weslaco laboratory. One plot lacking wasps had "hardly enough bolls to make one shirt," he said.

King, Summy and other colleagues will present findings on field and lab tests with the wasp Thursday, Jan. 14, to scientists and cotton industry representatives at the annual Beltwide Cotton Conference in New Orleans.

Boll weevils—brownish-black flying insects with long snouts—are a cotton farmer's nightmare. The pests cost the U.S. cotton industry more than \$200 million each year, according to the National Cotton Council.

King, Summy and ARS colleague Juan Morales-Ramos plan larger tests in commercial cotton fields next summer. USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service will cooperate in the field trials.

If successful, King said, the tiny wasps could become a key part of a cotton farmer's system to suppress weevils and other cotton pests with fewer chemicals.

Most insect enemies of boll weevils tested so far search for young boll weevils—known as larvae—in the cotton plant's leafy canopy. But *C. grandis* goes on foot patrol, searching for weevil larvae on the ground.

After adult boll weevils lay their eggs in cotton flower buds, or squares, infested buds drop to the ground. The *C. grandis* wasp seeks out those buds—probably by smell—and lays its own eggs inside them. When a wasp larva hatches, it eats the boll weevil larva.

A female weevil can lay up to 400 eggs—each one in a different bud. “That's why it's critical to knock down boll weevil populations early in the season, before they have a chance to develop and lay more eggs,” said King.

Relying on the wasps—instead of insecticides—spares other beneficial insects, like lady beetles and green lacewings, Summy said. Those insects help hold down other cotton pests like the tobacco budworm, cotton bollworm and plant-sucking insects like aphids and whiteflies. “Farmers are forced to spray more chemicals to check these other pests,” he said.

The next challenge, said Morales-Ramos, is to perfect a cost-effective way to mass-produce the wasps. For this year's tests, he raised large numbers of the wasps by feeding them laboratory-reared boll weevils provided by the ARS-operated Robert T. Gast Insect Rearing Facility in Starkville, Miss. Other scientists at the Weslaco lab are developing an artificial diet to replace the boll weevils as food for the wasps.

When those advances happen, using wasps might be comparable to the cost of spraying chemicals, said Morales-Ramos. In addition, a computer simulation model he developed suggests that fewer wasps—only one-half to one-quarter as many as used in the original experiments—may control boll weevils just as well.

NOTE TO EDITORS: For details, contact Edgar G. King, director, Subtropical Agriculture Research Laboratory, USDA, ARS, Weslaco, Texas 78596, telephone (210) 565-2423. Dr. King may be reached during the Beltwide Cotton Conference, held at New Orleans Marriott Hotel, by leaving a message with Marriott's catering service manager at (504) 581-1000, or by calling Monteleone Hotel, (504) 523-3341.

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USDA SEEKS COMMENTS ON 1993 MARKETING QUOTAS FOR 6 KINDS OF TOBACCO

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12—The U.S. Department of Agriculture today asked for public comment on the 1993 marketing quotas for six kinds of tobacco.

The tobaccos and principal growing states are: Virginia fire-cured, type 21 and Virginia sun-cured, type 37 (Virginia); cigar filler and binder, types 42-44 and 53-55 (Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin); fire-cured, types 22-23 (Kentucky and Tennessee); dark air-cured (Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee); and cigar filler, type 46 (Puerto Rico).

USDA will consider any comments received by Feb. 5. The quotas will be announced by March 1. Details will appear in the Jan. 12 Federal Register.

Send comments to: Deputy Administrator, Policy Analysis, USDA-ASCS, Room 3090, P.O. Box 2415, Washington, D.C. 20013-2415.

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USDA AUTHORIZES ALTERNATIVE PERENNIALS ON CRP ACREAGE

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13—Producers enrolled in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Conservation Reserve Program will be allowed to plant certain alternative perennials on their CRP acreage in 1993, said Keith Bjerke, executive vice president of USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation.

"Acceptable alternative perennials include, but are not limited to, walnut and chestnut trees, English holly, shrubs, vines and bushes," Bjerke said.

"Planting species for Christmas trees and nursery stock production is prohibited by law," he said. "CRP participants may not receive economic benefit from the alternative crop during the remainder of the CRP contract period. Nuts and foliage may be harvested only after the contract expires."

"Producers who desire to plant these alternative perennials must have an approved permanent cover already established on the CRP acreage" Bjerke

said. "The CRP plan must be modified and approved prior to planting the alternative crops."

Bjerke said producers will not be paid to convert CRP acres and disturbance of existing cover must be minimized to ensure continued protection of the enrolled acres. "When the CRP contract expires," he said, "all CRP acreage which had been planted to these perennials will be declared noncropland."

Producers should contact their county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service office for further information.

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USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET RICE PRICES

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12—Acting Under Secretary of Agriculture Randall Green today announced the prevailing world market prices of milled rice, loan rate basis, as follows:

- long grain whole kernels, 8.49 cents per pound;
- medium grain whole kernels, 7.65 cents per pound;
- short grain whole kernels, 7.63 cents per pound;
- broken kernels, 4.24 cents per pound.

Based upon these prevailing world market prices for milled rice, loan deficiency payment rates and gains from repaying price support loans at the world market price level are:

- for long grain, \$1.40 per hundredweight;
- for medium grain, \$1.32 per hundredweight;
- for short grain, \$1.32 per hundredweight.

The prices announced are effective today at 3 p.m. EST. The next scheduled price announcement will be made Jan. 19 at 3 p.m. EST.

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GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES PUBLIC LAND 1993 GRAZING FEES FOR 16 WESTERN STATES

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13—The grazing fee for Western public lands administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service and U.S. Department of Interior's Bureau of Land Management will decline by 6 cents in 1993 under a formula set by Congress.

Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan said the new fee is \$1.86 per animal unit month (AUM), down from the current level of \$1.92. An animal unit month is the amount of forage needed to sustain one cow and her calf, one horse, or five sheep or goats for a month.

The annually adjusted fee, which takes effect March 1, is computed by using a 1966-based fair market value of \$1.23 per AUM month for livestock grazing on public lands in the 16 Western states. The figure is then adjusted according to current private land lease rates, beef cattle prices and the cost of livestock production.

This fee applies to national forests and BLM land in Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wyoming and to national grasslands in California, Idaho and Oregon.

In addition, Madigan announced the 1993 grazing fee for the national grasslands. Under the formula adopted for the 1992 grazing year to provide compatability with the Western public lands grazing fee, Madigan said this fee will be \$2.04 per AUM, a 21-cent decrease from 1992.

The grassland grazing fee applies to national grasslands in Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas and Wyoming.

Both fees decreased this year because higher livestock production costs and lower beef cattle prices offset slight increases in the private land lease rates. The fee formulas for both are established by Congress.

The Forest Service manages about 191 million acres of federal land in 44 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands for multiple public uses including grazing. The BLM manages about 270 million acres of federal land in 11 Western states and Alaska for a variety of public uses such as grazing.

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ARTIFICIAL DIET CONCOCTED FOR POTATO PEST

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13—A new artificial diet for mass rearing Colorado potato beetles for research purposes has been developed at a U.S. Department of Agriculture laboratory. The diet is expected to produce large numbers of beetles needed to test potential biological and other controls of the pest.

Colorado potato beetles are the major pest of potatoes in North America and Europe. Unfortunately, they are becoming increasingly resistant to most types of chemical insecticides, said John Domek, an entomologist with USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

"A major problem in trying to develop a biological control for this insect is raising enough beetles for research purposes," Domek said. "Using this diet, we have been able to rear the beetle from egg to adult," he said. The pest, which feeds primarily on potato leaves, can strip a plant bare in a few days, consuming stems as well as leaves.

Colorado potato beetles used in research projects are now reared on potato plants that are grown in carefully controlled greenhouses. Since research requires large numbers of insects, this becomes expensive and time consuming.

But Domek's artificial diet could eliminate the need for potato plants as beetle food, bringing the possibility of new control methods a step closer. Made of protein, sugar, vegetable oil, amino acids, vitamins, minerals and cholesterol (insects don't make their own), the new food tastes enough like a potato plant to entice the beetle to munch it.

The diet has all the elements necessary for the beetle's growth and all the ingredients are commercially available and relatively inexpensive. The food looks like a piece of cheese and has a similar texture, but it is a lot more nutritious for the beetle.

Another important reason for using an artificial diet, Domek said, is its uniform nutritional content. Nutrient levels in individual leaves on a plant can vary considerably, making it difficult to get uniform growth in beetles reared on potato plant leaves.

Researchers testing natural substances can't tell if the slow growth of a beetle raised on potato plants is due to a less nutritious leaf or to the substance being tested. "With an artificial diet, we know exactly what the insects are eating," Domek said. He developed the diet at the ARS Vegetable Laboratory, located at the Beltsville, Md., Agricultural Research Center.

Domek's new beetle diet can also be used to test natural substances that might be harmful to the beetle. These substances could be genetically incorporated into the potato plant to prevent or reduce its appeal to the beetle.

The beetle is now controlled with insecticides which are becoming less effective as beetles develop resistance, Domek said.

This makes developing new, non-insecticidal control even more urgent. It was against the Colorado potato beetle that the first effective chemical warfare against insects was waged about 127 years ago. Paris green, a mixture of copper and arsenic, was developed in 1865 specifically to fight the ravages of the Colorado potato beetle.

Found in much of the United States, the beetle also feeds on eggplant, peppers, tomato, flowering tobacco and petunias. Adult females lay their sticky, orange-yellow eggs in a group on the underside of leaves. Eggs hatch in 4 to 8 days, depending on air temperature. There are four larval stages, each bigger and more damaging than the previous stage. Full-grown, fourth stage larva burrow into the soil, pupate and change into adult beetles. Adults survive the winter underground to emerge in the spring, hungry for tender potato plants.

From spring through summer, up to three generations of the Colorado potato beetle can be produced.

NOTE TO EDITORS: For details, contact John Domek, entomologist, Vegetable Laboratory, USDA, ARS, Beltsville, Md. 20705. Telephone (301) 504-8395.

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USDA DECLARES OREGON FREE OF BOVINE BRUCELLOSIS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13—The U.S. Department of Agriculture today declared Oregon free of bovine brucellosis. Oregon joins 31 other states, plus Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, that have eradicated this costly disease.

"We appreciate the efforts of Oregon officials and producers in achieving Class-free status for brucellosis," said Billy G. Johnson, deputy administrator for veterinary services in USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. "This is significant progress in meeting our goal of being a brucellosis-free country by 1998."

APHIS declares a state to be Class-free when no cattle or bison are found infected with brucellosis for 12 consecutive months. Certain restrictions on interstate movement of cattle and bison are lifted once a state is disease-free.

Seventeen states maintain Class A status with an infection rate of less than 0.25 of the total cattle and bison populations. Only one state is in Class B status, having an infection rate of 1.5 or less.

Brucellosis, also called Bang's disease, is an infectious and contagious bacterial disease that causes abortion, reduced fertility and lower milk yields in cattle and bison. Humans can get the disease by drinking unpasteurized milk from infected animals or handling infected animals.

The interim rule declaring Oregon free of bovine brucellosis will be published in the Jan. 14 Federal Register and become effective that day.

Comments on this action will be accepted if they are received before March 15. An original and three copies of comments referring to docket 92-140-1 should be sent to Chief, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, USDA, Room 804 Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

Comments may be inspected at USDA, Rm. 1141-S, 14th and Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C., between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

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USDA REVISES GRADING STANDARDS FOR CANNED GREEN AND WAX BEANS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13—The U.S. Department of Agriculture will revise the USDA grading standards for canned green beans and canned wax beans to bring them in line with Food and Drug Administration minimum quality standards, said Daniel D. Haley, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service. The revisions also will:

- provide for the "individual attributes" procedure for product grading with sample sizes, acceptable quality levels, tolerances and number of allowable defects being published in the standards;

- change from dual-grade nomenclature such as "U.S. Fancy" and "U.S. Grade A" to single nomenclature of letter grades;

— slightly reduce the recommended minimum drained weights for French style in 8 ounce tall and 303 containers and whole style in No. 300 and 303 containers;

— eliminate the quality factor for “clearness of liquor,” because it does not reflect quality in canned green and canned wax beans;

— provide a uniform format consistent with other recently revised U.S. grade standards by adopting definitions of terms and replacing textual descriptions with easy-to-read tables.

USDA began its review of canned green bean and canned wax bean standards in response to a request from the National Food Processors Association.

The revisions will appear as a final rule in the Jan. 14 Federal Register. Copies and additional information are available from Leon Cary, Processed Products, Fruit and Vegetable Division, AMS, USDA, Rm. 0709-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456; telephone (202) 720-6247.

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